NATURAL NEWS

The Field Museum
Exploring
The Earth And Its
People

Weekly Staff Newsletter
August 28, 1998

New international role for Laura Gates

As you know, Amoco and British Petroleum have announced their intention to merge. In all likelihood, this transaction will be implemented by the end of the year.

If, as expected, the merger takes place, Steve Gates will become Executive Vice President and Chief of Staff to the Chief Executive of the combined company. This is a great opportunity for Steve, who has been serving as Vice President and General Counsel of Amoco, and reflects his success as an attorney and executive.

Now the downside: Steve will be based in London and Laura will move to London with him early next year.

So much of what this Museum has accomplished in recent years results from the vision, talent, leadership and enthusiasm of Laura Gates. She has led Museum Affairs through a major transformation in all aspects of its activities. New exhibits, new educational programs, new retail operations, new public spaces, a new profile in the community have all flowed from the work of Laura and her colleagues. Laura has built a highly energetic and talented team. She has been a true partner to me and to all of our senior staff. So, what do we do?

First, following her move to London, Laura will continue as a vice president of the Museum with responsibility for our international activities. Our relationships with the Kremlin and Cartier will be enhanced by Laura's involvement as we plan these two major exhibits. European museums provide interesting opportunities for joint endeavors. Creative new development activities can enhance our programs and endowment. We already have initiated our efforts in Europe and Laura will bring focus and energy to these initiatives.

Second, in the coming months, Laura and I will work with her team to ensure that we can continue the momentum she has built. This will be a challenge for all of us but with Laura's guidance we will work it out.

John McCarter

FIELD NOTES

Week of August 31

Public Events/Special Events

Chicago Fire vs. Miami
- Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.

Chicago Jazz Festival
- Wednesday through Sunday

Maori House Volunteers Potluck
- Friday, 4 p.m.

Volunteer Training Session in LH2
- Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

PIP Alumni Meeting
- Saturday, noon to 3 p.m.

Chicago Bears vs. Jacksonville
- Sunday, noon

Staff/Volunteer Events

President's Staff Address
A. Montgomery Ward Lecture Hall
- Monday, 9 a.m.

Aerobics Class, Classroom A
- Tuesday and Thursday, 5:15 p.m.

And . . . Next Softball Game
- *September 8* at 5:45 p.m.

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Submit dates for the coming week by Tuesday at noon.

Exhibit development staff members examine, exhume, and excite

Members of the Museum's Exhibits Department are making major strides in the development and production of upcoming exhibits. Here's a behind-the-scenes look, with an emphasis on several developers' recent activities:

Developer **Barbara Ceiga** and 3-D designer **Jason Grandt** traveled to the Museum of the Rockies in Bozeman, Montana on August 10 to meet with their staff to review the *T-Rex on Trial* exhibit, which The Field Museum will be presenting next summer. The exhibit puts the big carnivore on trial to answer, among other questions, the question of the true nature of his ravenous ways: opportunistic scavenger or fearless predator?

Trucks bearing giant animatronic insects will be arriving within the next several weeks. The creatures will be featured in the *Undergound Adventure* exhibit, a project headed by developer **Francie Muraski-Stotz**. This 15,000 square-foot, $10 million permanent exhibit will take visitors on a fascinating subterranean journey to explore one of the earth's least known ecosystems: the world of life in soil.

Sounds from the Vaults reverberated through the Museum August 9-14 as developer **Michelle Miller** worked with internationally-recognized sound designer Bruce Odland in recording music produced on selected instruments from the Museum's collections. This multimedia exhibit, which allows visitors to "play" musical instruments from around the world via interactive touch-sensitive pads, will run from July 17, 1999 to January 2, 2000.

Michelle is also working with co-developer **Matt Matcuk** as he leads the project team for the Museum's exhibit on human evolution, *Origins*, which opens in January of 1999 as part of Project Millennium. Featuring reproductions of such "stars" of the human fossil world as "Lucy" and "Turkana Boy" – and a cameo appearance by "Magdalenian Girl" (released from her contract with *Life Over Time*) – *Origins* will interweave the themes of environment, technology, and language to show our visitors how "evolution happens," even to this day.

On August 18 developer **Peter Stevenson**, with the assistance of staff member **Paula Perkins** and volunteers **Dan Schmitt** and **Kris Slawinski**, conducted the second in a series of taping sessions for a videotape to be included as part of the upcoming *Art of the Motorcycle* exhibit, which opens November 7. The video will be an important addition made by The Field Museum to this exhibit, allowing the riders to speak from an insider's perspective about the diverse subcultures surrounding this powerful icon of the twentieth century.

On a personal note, the department sends its congratulations to developer **Melissa Johnson**, who was married to Enda McGonigle on August 21 in Traverse City, Michigan. Best wishes, Melissa and Enda.

Watch this space for further news and developments on your Museum's upcoming exhibits.

Submitted by **Matt Matcuk**

Weight Watchers update

As you know, we have held two ten-week sessions of the *Weight Watchers at Work* program. In both programs combined, participants lost a total of **447 pounds**!!! Unfortunately, we did not have enough people interested in joining a new ten-week program. If there is interest in the future, please call **Carole Kasarda** at ext. 529.

SECURITY SERVICES UPDATES

Staff awareness alert regarding domestic terrorism

Due to the recent incidents involving U.S. facilities in Africa and the U.S. response in the Middle East, Security has been asked if any additional security initiatives have been put into place in the Museum. At this time there have been no general initiatives taken. However, we will continue to evaluate the necessity for any precautions based on advisories we may receive and on the types of events we may be hosting. We also are maintaining contact with appropriate agencies and other museums to share and obtain updated information.

All staff should continue to maintain a high degree of awareness concerning the potential for incidents such as bomb threats. A copy of the Chicago Police Department's bomb threat phone checklist should be kept by your telephone. If you would like a copy, please contact Security at ext. 851.

All staff traveling to foreign countries should avail themselves of the U.S. Department of State Travel Warnings and Consular Information Sheets, and Public Announcements, available on the Internet at **http:/travel.state.gov/travel_warnings.html.** Individuals who travel often to areas of potential unrest may want to bookmark this site, which currently contains a worldwide caution for all U.S. citizens traveling abroad, reminding everyone to remain alert and exercise caution at all times.

Parking update

The question arose recently of whether staff using the $3 daily parking pass who park in the Soldier Field Lot during the day can move to the West Lot in the evening.

Any staff member who parks in the Soldier Field Lot may move to the West Lot by showing the stub of the daily pass. The stub will be initialed and dated by the West Lot guard and should then be displayed on the dash. Staff members may use the stub only once, and must first have parked in the Soldier Field or Adler Lot. The daily pass stub is only good for the day it was used in the Soldier Field or Adler Lots. It may not be used to park in the West Lot on another day. And remember…any staff member parking in the West Lot must have a daily or monthly pass! If you have any questions, please contact **Ron Cundiff** at ext. 856.

Shipping update

The shipping dock has received a number of packages addressed to the Museum with no department addressee or individual recipient identified, and no purchase order or reference number. If you have been waiting for a delivery which hasn't arrived, you may want to contact Shipping at ext. 287.

Attention drivers: Vehicle Emissions Test Station temporarily closed

This is to notify employees that the Vehicle Emissions Test Station on 43rd Street and Ashland will be closed temporarily until December 1998. New stations are to open soon at the following locations:

14th Place Station
527 West 14th Place
(312) 421-3191

76th Street Station
3134 West 76th Street
(773) 776-8159

Fillmore Station
5618 West Fillmore
(773) 287-1766

So if you are planning a trip to the Emissions Test Station, please call first, but remember that the 43rd street station is closed.

Submitted by **Maria Burns**, Human Resources

08/24/98

1998

September

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Satur
		1 T-Special Events-SFH *Intl Marine & Sportfishing Expo-McCormick Pl*	2 Fire vs Miami-7:30pm	3 **CHICAGO JAZZ FESTIVAL**	4 **CHICAGO JAZZ FESTIVAL**	5 **CHICAGO JAZZ FESTIV**
6 *BEARS-12:00PM* **CHICAGO JAZZ FESTIVAL** Fire vs Colorado-7pm	7 **LABOR DAY** Chicago Classic-T	8 NKeliher- F.Elev& Ship. Dock 5Pm-5AM	9 NKeliher-F.Elev & Ship. Dock 5PM-8AM also 7:30AM-4:30PM *Intl Mfg Tech Show-McCormick Pl*	10 NKeliher-F.Elev & Ship. Dock 5PM-8AM also 8:30AM-4:30pm *Intl Mfg Tech Show-McCormick Pl*	11 Diamond Tech-SFH 6:30pm-12:00am 400 Executive Prod LTD NKeliher-F Elev&Dock 2AM-10AM *Intl Mfg Tech Show-McCormick Pl*	12 U. of Ill of Chg- SFH 6:00pm-12:00am 200 T Special Events-Rice NKeliher-F Elev & Dock 2AM 10AM *Intl Mfg Tech Show-McCormick Pl*
13	14 T-Special Events-SFH/Rice	15 T-Special Events-SFH/Rice	16 T-Special Events-SFH/Rice *Intl Mfg Tech Show-McCormick Pl*	17 JCarter- Rice 5:00pm-9:00pm Fire vs Kansas City-7:30pm *Intl Mfg Tech Show-McCormick Pl*	18 Ed-Overnight	19 Boys and Girls Club-6:00pm-12:00am 500 JThymes-SFH 8:00am-2:00pm Ed-Unity Day Lunch-Rice 10am-3pm **CELTIC FEST**
20 Nuveen-SFH/Bal 1,000 **CELTIC FEST CHICAGO**	21 **ROSH HASHANAH**	22 **ROSH HASHANAH** SVandenbosch-Whole Museum-Pres. Dinner 5:30pm-8:30pm	23 ESpears-Maori House/Rice/JST 6:00pm-9:00pm 80 Fire vs New England-7:30pm	24 Baxter-SFH/JST 7:00am-10:00pm 600 Lynn Folkman-Rice 6:30pm-8:30pm 200 *Chrysler New Car Show-McCormick Pl*	25 Ed.- Overnight American Collegeof Osteopathic Surgeons-Rice 7-9pm 50 FLevin-JST 9:00am-5:30pm-SFH 9am-2:30pm *Chrysler New Car Show-McCormick Pl*	26 20/30 Club-SFH 1,2,000 JTerrell-JST 8:30am-5:00pm ESpears-SFH/JST 9:00am-5:00pm *Chrysler New Ca Show-McCormick Pl*
27 *BEARS-3:15PM* *Chrysler New Car Show-McCormick Pl*	28 CKatzwnmeyer-SFH/JST 8:00am-6:00pm *Chrysler New Car Show-McCormick Pl*	29 *Chrysler New car Show-McCormick Pl*	30 **YOM KIPPOR** *Chrysler New Car Show-McCormick Pl*			

1998

September

1998

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Aerobics Class - 5pm to 6:30pm - LH 2	2	3 Aerobics Class - 5pm to 6:30pm - LH 2	4 Maori Mtg House Volunteers Pot Luck Supper - 4pm to 12 mid - Clrms A and B	5 Volunteer Training Session - 9am to 4pm - LH 2 PIP Alumni Mtg - 12 noon to 3pm - Clrm A
6 Butterfly Play Dressing Rm - 10am to 4pm - Clrm B	7	8 Chicago Wilderness Wkshop - 9am to 3:30pm - LH 2 P. Macnamara/Zoo. - 9am to 3:30pm - Clrm B Adult Class - 4pm to 9pm - Clrm A and LH 2	9 Volunteer Training Session - 9am to 4pm - LH 2 Adult Class - 4pm to 9pm - Clrms A and B IL Mycological Assoc - 6pm to 10pm - LH 2	10 Columbia Col Teacher Wkshop - 4:30pm to 9pm - Clrm C Adult Class - 5pm to 9pm - Clrms A and B and LH 2	11 Music Theater Wkshop - 5pm to 9pm - Clrm A	12 Interp Station Vol Training - 9am to 4pm - Clrm C Volunteer Training Session - 9am to 4pm - LH 2 Adult Class - 8am to 1pm - Clrms A and B
13 Adult Class - 8am to 1pm - Clrms A and B	14 Adult Class - 4pm to 9pm - Clrm A Chgo Hang Gliding Org - 7pm to 11pm - LH 1 Primitive Art Society - 7:30pm to 10pm - Clrm C	15 P. Macnamara/Zoo. - 9am to 3:30pm - Clrm B Adult Class - 4pm to 9pm - Clrms A, B, C and LH 2	16 Volunteer Training Session - 9am to 4pm - LH 2 Adult Class - 4pm to 9pm - Clrms A, B and LH 2	17 Adult Class - 4pm to 9pm - Clrms A, B and LH 2 Columbia Col Teacher Wkshop - 4:30pm to 9pm - Clrm C	18 ADL - Diversity Wkshop - 8am to 5pm - LH 2 FAMILY OVERNIGHT - 5pm to next morning - ALL ROOMS	19 Adult Cls - 8am to 5pm - LH 1 Interp Station Vol Training - 9am to 4pm - Clrm C Volunteer Training Session - 8am to 5pm - Clrm B Teacher Prog - 10am to 12 noon - Clrm A MTW - 11am to 4pm - LH 2
20 Nuveen Day - 8:30am to 9pm - Clrm A Windy City Films/Martha Foster - 11am to 6pm - LH 1 and LH 2	21 Adult Class - 4pm to 9pm - Clrm A Chgo Mountaineering Club - 6pm to 10pm - LH 1	22 P. Macnamara/Zoo. - 9am to 3:30pm - Clrm B Adult Class - 4pm to 9pm - Clrms A, B and LH 2	23 Africa Summit - 9am to 3pm - Clrms A, B, and C Volunteer Training Session - 9am to 4pm - LH 2 Adult Class - 4pm to 9pm - Clrms A, B, C and LH 2	24 Africa Summit - 9am to 3pm - Clrm C Audience Research Initiative Lunch - 11:30am to 1:30pm - Clrm A Adult Class - 4pm to 9pm - Clrms A, B and C	25 Africa Summit - 9am to 5pm - Clrms A, B, C and LH1 and LH2 Music Theater Wkshop - 5pm to 9pm - *Maori House* GROUP OVERNIGHT - 5pm to next morning - ALL ROOMS	26 Adult Class - 8am to 5pm - Clrms A and B Africa Summit - 9am to 5pm - Clrm C, LH 1, and LH 2
27	28 LASA/Latin American Studies Assoc. - 9am to 6pm - Clrm A, Clrm C, LH 1 and LH 2 Adult Class - 4pm to 9pm - Clrm B	29 LASA/Latin American Studies Assoc. - 9am to 6pm - Clrm A, Clrm C, LH 1 and LH 2 P. Macnamara/Zoo. - 9am to 3:30pm - Clrm B Adult Class - 4pm to 9pm - Clrm B and 6pm to 9pm - Clrm A and LH 2	30 Volunteer Training Session - 9am to 4pm - LH 2 Teacher Prog - The Happiness Club - 2pm to 6pm - LH 1 Adult Class - 4pm to 9pm - Clrms A, B and LH 2 Chgo Herpetological Society - 6pm to 10pm - LH 1			

"BOOK-ABLE" SPACES IN FIELD MUSEUM
2/11/98

SPACE	LOC	MAX	USE	SCHEDULE BY	CONTACT	EXT.	
Classroom 1	GF	50	I P	Education	Bob Cantu	353	
Classroom 2	GF	40	I P	Education	Bob Cantu	353	
Classroom 3	GF	30	I P	Education	Bob Cantu	353	
Conf. Room 1	GF	20	I	Spec. Events	Special Ev. Sec'y	864	
Campaign Ctr/DRA	GF	16	I	Instit. Adv.	Janet Young	210	Restricted use
Dining Room B	GF	4	I S	Spec. Events	Special Ev. Sec'y	864	
Dining Room C	GF	6	I S	Spec. Events	Special Ev. Sec'y	864	
Dining Room C/D	GF	20	I S	Spec. Events	Special Ev. Sec'y	864	
Dining Room D	GF	12	I S	Spec. Events	Special Ev. Sec'y	864	
Dining Room E	GF	75	I P S	Spec. Events	Special Ev. Sec'y	864	
D&P Conf. Room	4th	10	I	Exhibits	Jessica Newman	329	
Educ. Conf. Room	GF	14	I S	Education	Clara Aytch-Baker	247	
Developers Conf. Rm.	4th	8	I	Exhibits	Jessica Newman	329	
Founder's Room	1st	100	I S	Inst. Adv.	Sarah Gunderson	810	Restricted use
Montgomery Ward H.	GF	150	I P S	Education	Bob Cantu	353	
Lecture Hall II	GF	75	I P S	Education	Bob Cantu	353	
Picnic East (Sch)	GF	320	P S	Education	Bob Cantu	353	
Picnic West (Pub)	GF	125	P S	Education	Bob Cantu	353	
Rice Center	1st		P S	Spec. Events	Special Ev. Sec'y	864	
Simpson Theatre	GF	1000	I P S	Spec. Events	Special Ev. Sec'y	864	
Zoology Clrm.	3rd	50	I	Zoology	Erica Blair	255	
Webber Resource	1st	35	P S	Education	Bob Cantu	353	
Maori Meeting House	2nd	35	P S	Education	Mary Ann Bloom	350	
Pawnee Earth Lodge	1st	35	P S	Education	Bob Cantu	353	
Place for Wonder	1st	35	P S	Education	Bob Cantu	353	
Stanley Field Hall	1st	35	I P S	Spec. Events	Special Ev. Sec'y	864	
EXHIBIT HALL: Permanent Exhibits			P S	Spec. Events	Carol Konieczny	218	Exhibits Dept. consulted prior to confirmation
EXHIBIT HALLS: Special Exhibits			P S	Spec. Events	Carol Konieczny	218	

I = Internal (meetings, etc.)
P = Public (Programs, Classes, etc.)
S = Special Events

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Reese conducts research in Greece, receives fellowship

Adjunct Curator **David S. Reese** (Anthropology) recently returned from zooarchaeological research on the Greek mainland. He first worked on 6th-5th century B.C. animal bones excavated in 1958-60 from the "Great Circular Pit" at the University of Chicago excavation at Isthmia, near Corinth. He then worked in the Nauplion Museum on material excavated in 1996-97 by the University of Cincinnati at Late Bronze Age Midea, a Mycenaean citadel site. Reese's next field project will be at the new University of Chicago excavation at Tell Kurdu in the Hatay ('Amuq) of southeastern Turkey, from late September to mid-October. The faunal remains from the 1930's excavations there have been in The Field Museum collections for 60 years and have never been published.

Reese has also received one of ten fellowships awarded in the "Advanced Multi-Country Research" program of the Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC) of the Smithsonian Institution, funded by the U.S. Information Agency. These grants are "given to scholars who wish to carry out research on broad questions of multi-country significance in the fields of humanities, social, sciences, and related natural sciences" in North Africa, the Middle East, and South Asia. Reese will be conducting zooarchaeological research in Jordan and Israel.

Snails, beetles and butterflies, oh my: UrbanWatch pilot a success

Over the past year, a team of Field Museum scientists from Zoology, Botany, and ECP and scientists from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) have developed protocols for UrbanWatch, an exciting program that focuses on data collection by "citizen scientists." UrbanWatch focuses on urban greenspaces like local parks, vacant lots, schoolyards, community gardens and backyards, and target organisms include; trees, fungi, tiger beetles, carrion & rove beetles, land snails & slugs, butterflies, and birds. UrbanWatch is the fifth Illinois EcoWatch Network monitoring program and will be launched statewide by IDNR once it is revised.

On August 18, The Field Museum piloted UrbanWatch with adult volunteers at Rainbow Park on the south side. A total of 17 volunteers (from places such as the Juan Diego Community Center, Electronic Data Systems, the Chicago Park District's Green Team, Chicago State University, Chicago Academy of Sciences, the Illinois EcoWatch Network, and our own ECP) participated enthusiastically and gave us valuable feedback and suggestions for improvements. The group not only identified the trees in the park, but also found fungi, slugs, snails, butterflies, and birds.

Special thanks to the UrbanWatch Development Team Members: **Pat Leacock** (Botany), **Greg Mueller** (Botany), **Phil Parrillo** (Insects), **John Slapcinsky** (Invertebrates), **Margaret Thayer** (Insects), **Amy Varsek** (Insects), **Doug Stotz** (ECP), **Debby Moskovits** (ECP), and **Carol Fialkowski** (ECP); and to the UrbanWatch Pilot team: **Jill Anderson**, **Tina Bentz**, **Adam Kashuba**, **Chris Molzahn** (ECP), and Traci Barkley and Ben Barber (EcoWatch Network).

From the FM fan front

Today I got on the elevator on the ground floor after making a run to the mail room. I was joined by a mother and her 11- or 12-year-old daughter. As the doors closed and the elevator lurched upward, the daughter spontaneously and enthusiastically said, "This place rocks!" The mom smiled and said, "I knew you'd like it." The daughter replied, "It's REALLY cool." It made my day.

Marla Camp

$$ FINANCE FORUM $$

Tidbits from the Finance Department…

- The weekday cashier position is open again, so please be patient while we cover these duties with our current staff.
- The Museum's Travel Policy is in the process of revision, to ensure that employees receive the best quotes for air travel and we can adhere to our use of MBE/WBE vendors.
- The Field Museum has adopted the new mileage rate as set up by the Internal Revenue Service. The new rate is 32.5 cents per mile effective immediately.
- A reminder that our admission rates are fixed, and any proposed discounts must be submitted to Finance for approval well in advance of the applicable date.

Chase Corporate Challenge wrap-up

Congratulations to all who participated in the Chase Corporate Challenge on August 6! We also owe special thanks to everyone who helped coordinate the event, from the team captains, to the Housekeeping staff who set up the Museum's tent, to those who served the food for the walkers and runners from the Museum.

The top three women finishers from the Museum were **Gretchen Baker** (ECP), **Dana Brink** (Finance), and **Kristie Webber** (Education). Their combined time of 1:15:51 placed them fifth overall out of 253 teams running in the race.

The top three men finishers were **Zeus Prechwinckle** (Insects volunteer), **Link Olson** (Zoology grad student), and **Mark Widhalm** (Photography).

And remember . . . it's never too soon to start training for next year!

Submitted by **Cindy Andresen**

Errata

Dog stories are heartwarming, and their universal appeal is widely documented. However, dirty dog stories should apparently be taken with a grain of salt.

The story in last week's *Natural News* about an incident involving a golden retriever and two Museum employees appears to be a tissue (heartwarming, but still a tissue) of half-truths and exaggerations – though not, perhaps, on the level of the fabrications which have gotten two prominent journalists fired in recent weeks.

The editors are mindful of Mark Twain's observation regarding "lies, damned lies, and statistics." While we hate statistics as much as anyone, we will not hesitate to resort to publishing them if we keep receiving submissions which fall into the two other categories.

Rodger Patience

Natural News

The *Natural News* is edited by **Rodger Patience** in the Development office (ext. 617, patience@fmnh.org) and **Erica Kelly** in the Finance Department (ext. 584, ekelly@fmnh.org). Submissions are welcome via e-mail or on disk in Microsoft Word or WordPerfect format. The deadline for submissions is Tuesday at noon. Remember – write early and often!